

# Texas Judicial Council Office of Court Administration Overview

Joint Committee on Access and Forensic Services

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Director of Public Affairs/Special Counsel



# Office of Court Administration (OCA)

- State agency in the Judicial Branch that operates under the direction and supervision of the Supreme Court of Texas and the Chief Justice.
- Mission is to provide resources and information for the efficient administration of the Judicial Branch of Texas.
- Resources for the Judicial Branch:
  - For trial courts: technical assistance, training, and research on court administration, court interpreters, and funding and standards for indigent defense;
  - For appellate and specialty courts: information technology solutions and fiscal consultation;
  - For staffing and support, judicial branch regulatory boards, and policy making bodies; and
  - For specialty courts and the regional presiding judges: staffing and administration.

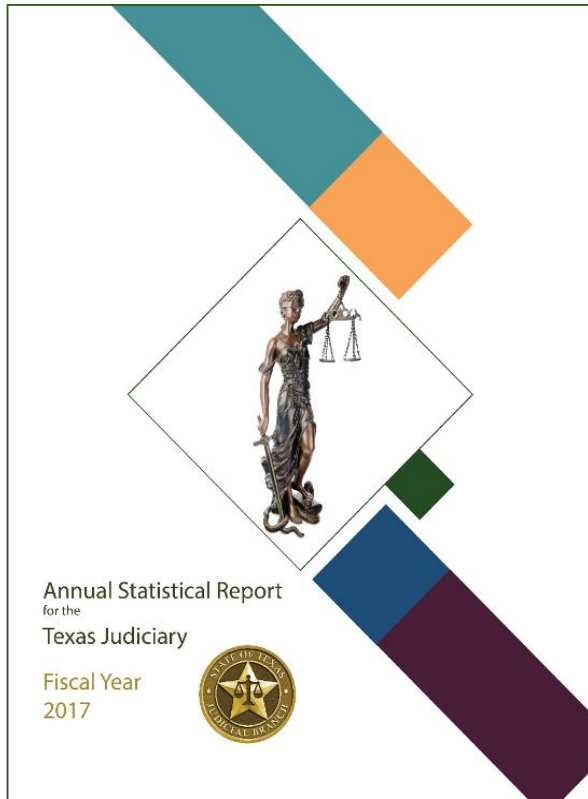




## OCA MISSION

To Provide Resources and Information  
for the Efficient Administration  
of the Judicial Branch of Texas.

# Judicial Data



- **Annual Statistical Report** - The report includes an overview of Texas court structure and jurisdiction, analyses of case activity and trends, and statistics from appellate and trial courts.
- **Trial Court Activity Database** - allows users to run reports for the information offered in the annual statistical reports. Reports may be run for a specific county or court (where available) and for date ranges other than the state fiscal year.
- **Court Security Incidents**
- **Hate Crimes**
- **Indigent Defense Statistics**
- **Information on Texas Judges**
- **Judicial Bypass Statistics**



# Technology

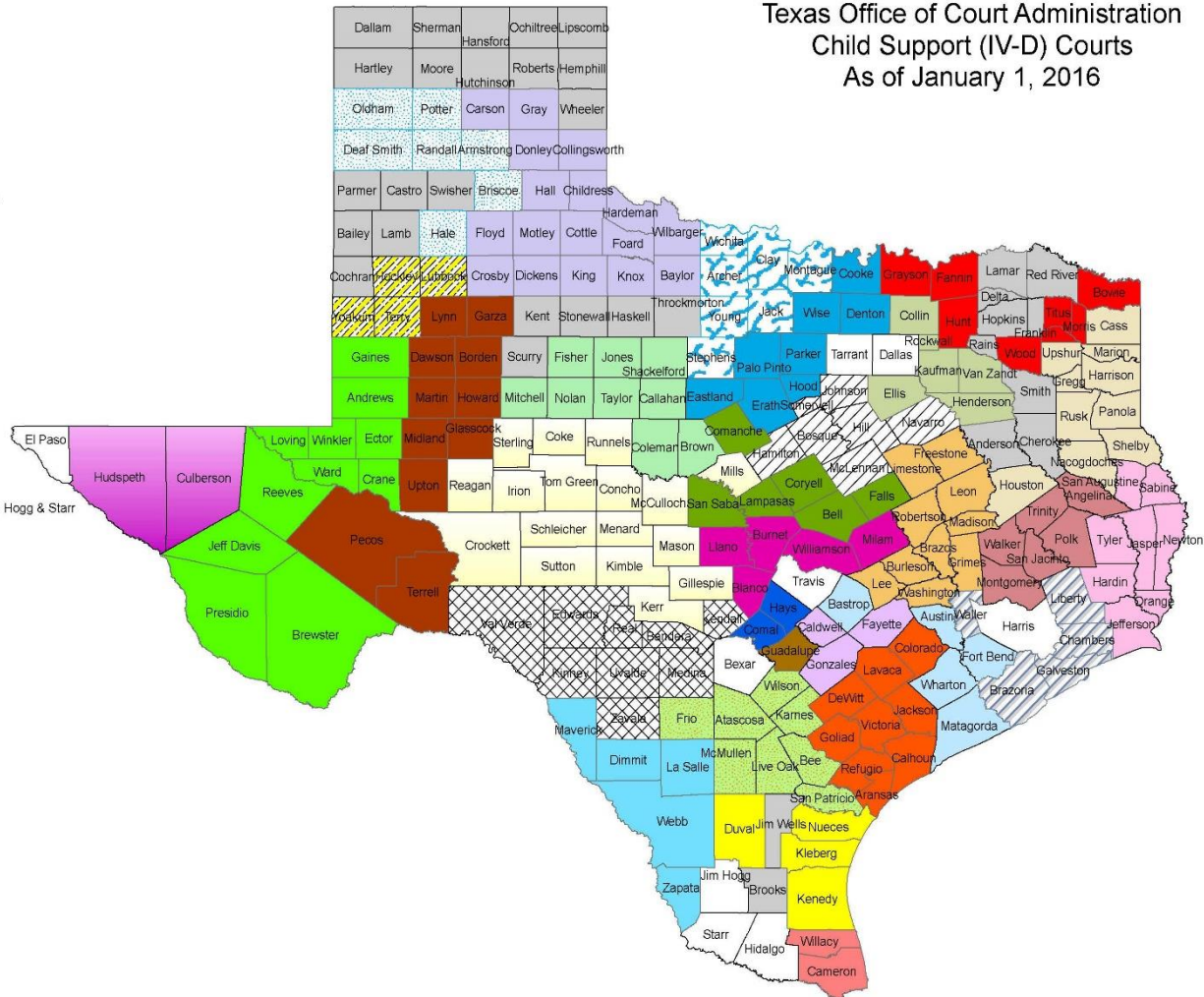


- September 2015 - statewide civil e-filing implementation was successfully completed 9 months ahead of schedule.
- June 2016 - Court of Criminal Appeals mandated criminal e-filing on rolling schedule through January 1, 2020.
- Online access to court records
- Judge Access
- Attorney access to filed cases
- Public access in development



- 1, 2 & 4 - Dallas
- 3
- 5
- 6
- 7
- 8
- 9
- 10, 11, 14, 43 - Harris
- 12
- 13
- 15
- 16
- 17
- 18
- 18 & 19 - Travis
- 19
- 20 & 23 - Bexar
- 21
- 22
- 24
- 25 & 26 - Hidalgo, Jim Hogg & Starr
- 27
- 28
- 29
- 30
- 30 & 44 - El Paso
- 31
- 32
- 33
- 34
- 35
- 36
- 37 & 38 - Tarrant
- 39
- 39 & 40 - Hale
- 40
- 41
- 42
- Do not participate

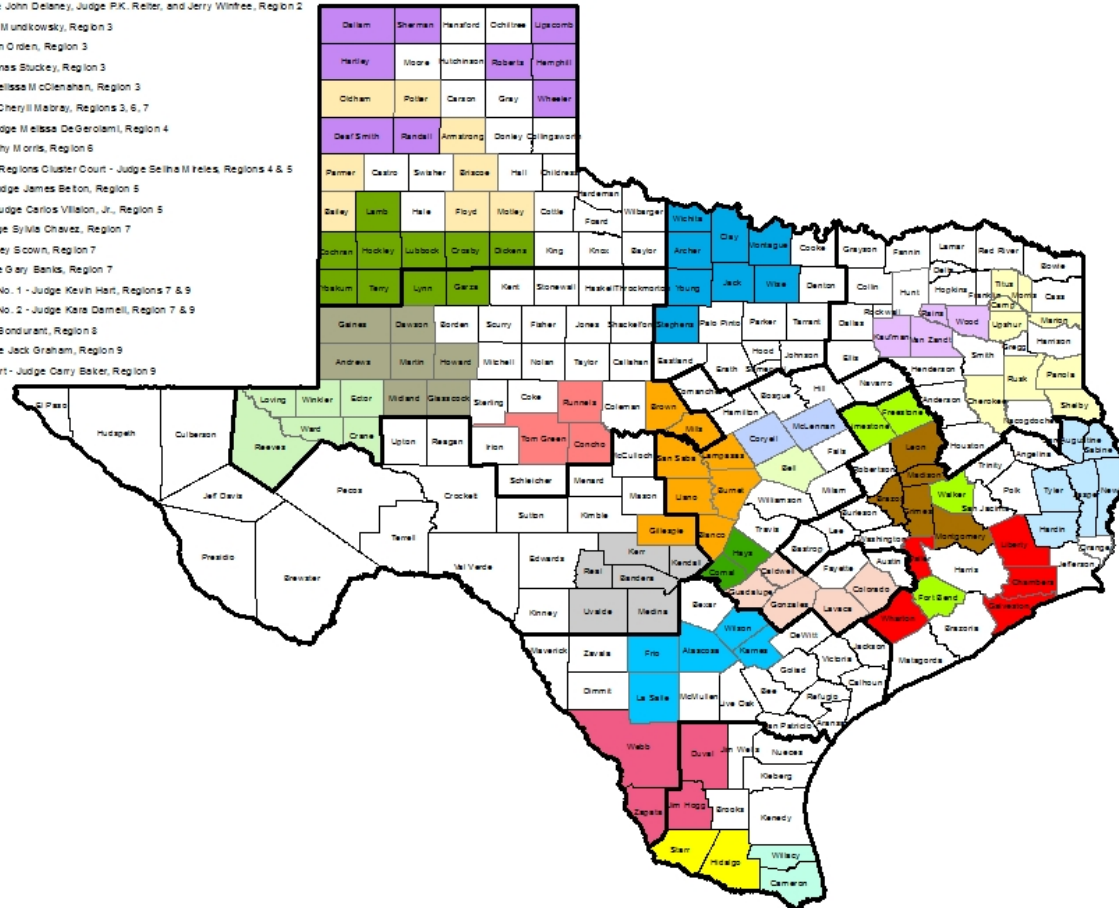
Texas Office of Court Administration  
Child Support (IV-D) Courts  
As of January 1, 2016





## Texas Office of Court Administration Child Protection Courts

- Northeast Texas OPC No. 1 - Judge Ginny Schain, Region 1
- Northeast Texas OPC No. 2 - Judge Deane Loughmiller, Region 1
- Brazos River Valley Cluster Court - Judge Eric Andell and Judge Sam Bountas, Region 2
- Southeast Texas Cluster Court, Judge Don Taylor, Region 2
- Three Rivers Cluster Court - Judge Eric Andell and Judge Roy Quintanilla, Region 2
- East Texas Cluster Court - Judge John Delaney, Judge P.K. Reiter, and Jerry Wintree, Region 2
- Centex OPC North - Judge Nikki Mundkowsky, Region 3
- Centex OPC - Judge Charles Van Orden, Region 3
- Centex OPC South - Judge Thomas Stuckey, Region 3
- OPC of Central Texas - Judge Melissa McInerney, Region 3
- OPC of the Hill Country - Judge Cheryl Mabrey, Regions 3, 6, 7
- OPC of South Central Texas - Judge Melissa DeGroot, Region 4
- OPC of South Texas - Judge Cathy Morris, Region 6
- 4th & 5th Administrative Judicial Regions Cluster Court - Judge Selma Miles, Regions 4 & 5
- OPC Rio Grande Valley East - Judge James Beaton, Region 5
- OPC Rio Grande Valley West - Judge Carlos Villalon, Jr., Region 5
- OPC of the Permian Basin - Judge Sylvia Chavez, Region 7
- OPC of West Texas - Judge Tracey Scown, Region 7
- OPC of the Concho Valley, Judge Gary Banks, Region 7
- South Plains Foster Care Court No. 1 - Judge Kevin Hart, Regions 7 & 9
- South Plains Foster Care Court No. 2 - Judge Kara Demell, Region 7 & 9
- North Texas OPC - Judge Alyce Bondurant, Region 8
- Northern Panhandle OPC - Judge Jack Graham, Region 9
- High Plains Child Protection Court - Judge Carry Baker, Region 9



## 85TH LEGISLATIVE SESSION



### BILLS FILED



- House Bills = 4333
  - Passed = 700
  - Vetoed = 36
- 
- Senate Bills = 2298
  - Passed = 511
  - Vetoed = 15
  - Total bills filed that impacted the Judiciary = 1785

### FISCAL NOTES



- OCA Fiscal Notes = 1181
- OCA drafted Fiscal Notes for 17% of ALL bills filed

#### OCA Fiscal Notes

- 84th Session: 1033
- 83rd Session: 711
- 82nd Session: 621





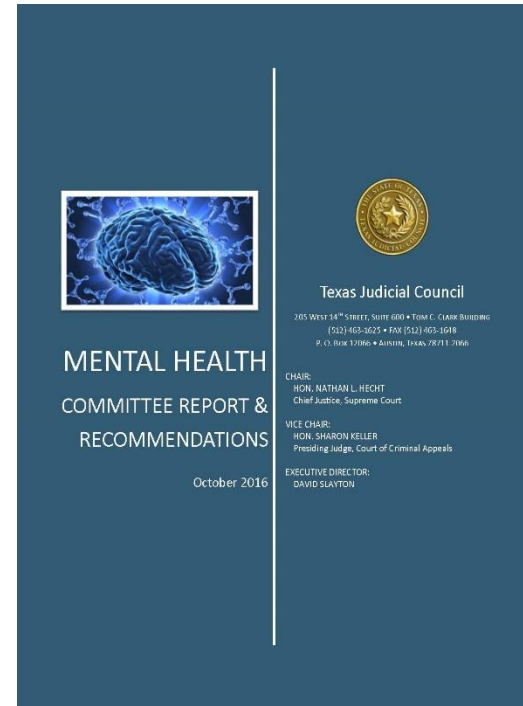
# Texas Judicial Council

- The Texas Judicial Council is the policy-making body for the state judiciary.
- The Council studies methods to simplify judicial procedures, expedite court business, and better administer justice.
- It examines the work accomplished by the courts and submits recommendations for improvement of the system to the Legislature, the Governor and the Supreme Court.
- Composed of 16 ex-officio and six appointed members.
- Chaired by the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court with the Presiding Judge of the Court of Criminal Appeals as Vice-Chair.
- Administrative Director of OCA is the Executive Director of the Council.



# Judicial Council Committees 2018

- Criminal Justice Committee
- Mental Health, Guardianship and IDD Committee
- Data Committee
- Public Trust and Confidence Committee
- Civil Justice Committee
- Juvenile Justice Committee



# Texas Judicial Council Resolutions

- Judicial Council requests legislative proposals from stakeholders the summer before a legislative session.
- Committees work on charges from the Chief Justice through the legislative interim. Produce reports and recommendations.
- The Council passed 14 resolutions in October 2016 urging the Legislature to make changes to bail and pretrial practices, mental health, court security, court costs and fines and other matters important to the judiciary.



# Texas Judicial Council Legislation

- SB 42- Judge Julie Kocurek Judicial and Courthouse Security Act of 2017
  - Establish Director of Security and Emergency Preparedness at OCA;
  - Requires municipal judges and local administrative judges to establish court security committees;
  - Certification of court security personnel;
  - Amend statutes impacting judges' personal security and privacy; and
  - Provide resources to DPS for personal security for judges, if necessary.



Gov. Abbott signs SB 42 into law May 27, 2017.



# Texas Judicial Council Legislation

- SB 667 – Guardianship Compliance Project Expansion
  - Expands pilot program statewide.
  - Requires Guardianship Compliance Specialists to provide additional resources to courts handling guardianship cases:
    - Review guardianship cases to identify reporting deficiencies by the guardian.
    - Audit annual accountings and report findings back to the court.
    - Work with courts to develop best practices in managing guardianship cases.
    - Vetoed



# Texas Judicial Council Legislation

- SB 1096 – Guardianship Registry
  - Authorizes the creation of a statewide guardianship registry available for query by law enforcement; and
  - Requires the Supreme Court to adopt rules requiring prospective guardians other than attorneys, corporate fiduciaries, and certified guardians, to receive training and undergo a criminal history background check in order to be appointed guardian.
- SB 36 – Regulation of Guardianship Programs
  - Expands Judicial Branch Certification Commission’s authority to regulate guardianship programs.
  - OCA anticipates less than 30 programs will be registered with the commission.





# Texas Judicial Council Legislation

- SB 133/ HB 3011 – Pretrial Release
  - Would Require defendants arrested for jailable misdemeanors and felonies to be assessed using a validated pretrial risk assessment prior to an appearance before a magistrate.
  - Provide for a presumption of pretrial release through personal bond, leaving discretion with judges to utilize all existing forms of bail.
  - Did not PASS



# Texas Judicial Council Legislation

- HB 351/ SB 1913 – Increasing Compliance with Court Costs, Fines and Fees
  - Several statutory changes to improve the assessment and collection of criminal court costs including:
    - Requires judges handling cases in open court to inquire about a defendant's ability to pay when imposing the sentence and to use existing tools of installment plans, community service, full or partial waiver, or any combination of those, if a defendant has an inability to pay in full;
    - Expands community service options a judge may impose;
    - Increases the minimum amount of credit for jail or community service from \$50 to \$100 for each day; and
    - Prohibits the posting of a monetary bail in a fine-only offense unless the defendant fails to appear and the judge finds that the defendant has the ability to post bail.



# New Courts

- SB 1329 – Omnibus Courts Bill
  - 453<sup>rd</sup> District Court in Hays County
  - 458<sup>th</sup> District Court in Fort Bend County
  - 459<sup>th</sup> District Court in Travis County – preference to Civil
  - 460<sup>th</sup> District Court in Travis County – preference to Criminal
  - 462<sup>nd</sup> District Court in Denton County
  - 464<sup>th</sup> District Court in Hidalgo County
  - CCAL No. 6 in Fort Bend County
  - CCAL in Grimes County
  - CCAL No. 3 in Hays County



# Texas Judicial Council Legislation

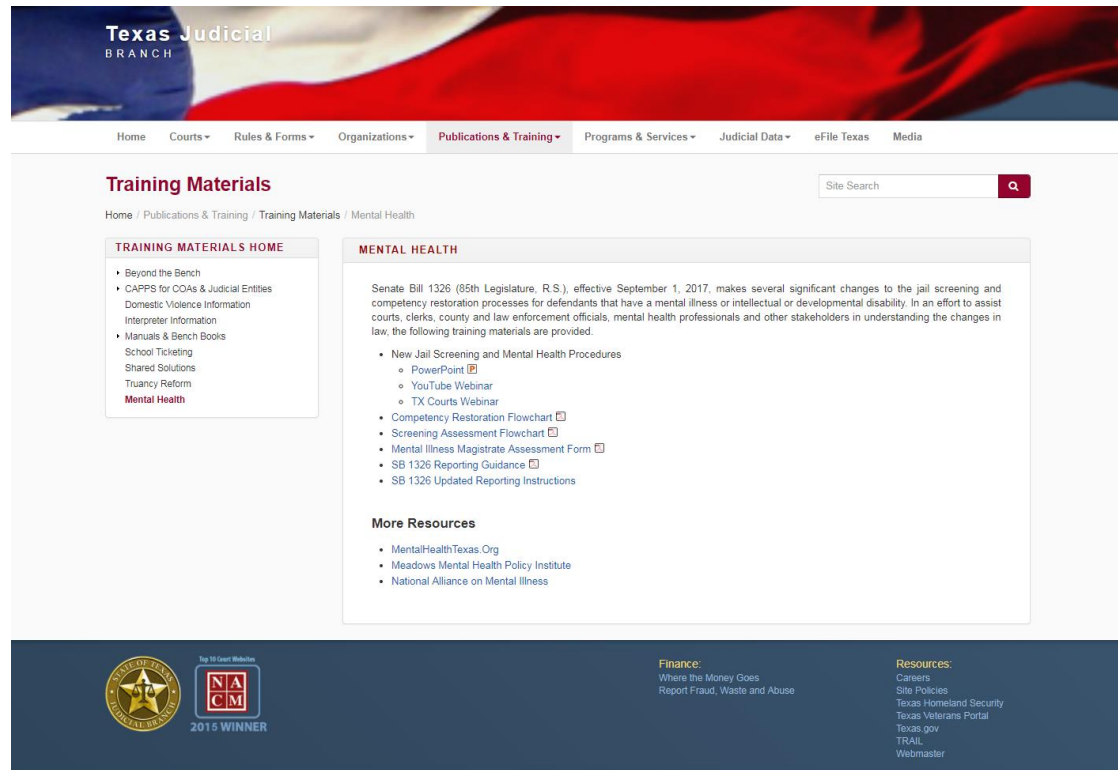
- SB 1326 – Mental Health
  - Revises the process of gathering and assessing information about an arrestee who may have a mental illness in the magistration process;
  - Streamlines the competency restoration process; and
  - Allows counties to establish jail-based competency restoration programs.
- SB 292 – Jail Diversion Grant Programs
  - Grant program for the purpose of reducing recidivism, arrest, and incarceration of individuals with mental illness.
  - Matching funds:
    - 50 percent of the grant amount for county with a population of less than 250,000.
    - 100 percent of the grant amount for county with a population of 250,000 or more.



# Judicial Commission on Mental Health



# Mental Health Training Page



- <http://txcourts.gov/publications-training/training-materials/mental-health/>





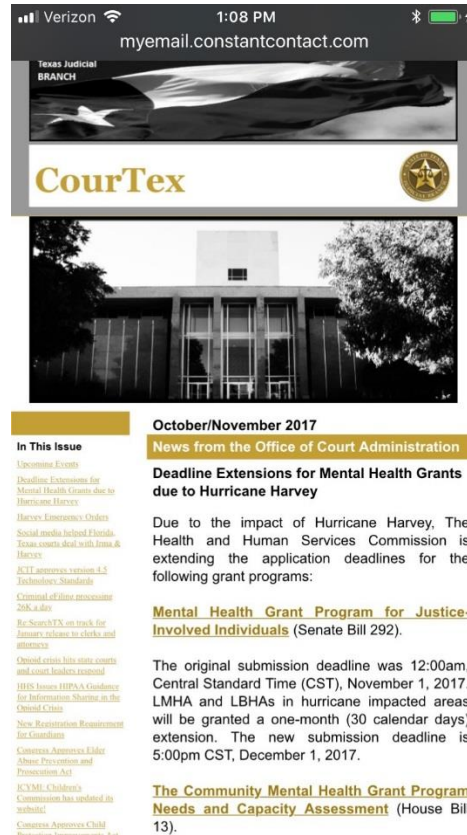
# Mental Health Training Conference

- February 2018
- Practical Implementation of Mental Health Procedures
- Diversions for Special Populations
- What Resources Are Out There and How Can Judges Use Them?
- Symptoms, Diagnoses & Treatment
- What do Judges Do with Screening & Assessment Tools?



# Distributing Information

- Email Blast
- CourTex
- Twitter



# Questions



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